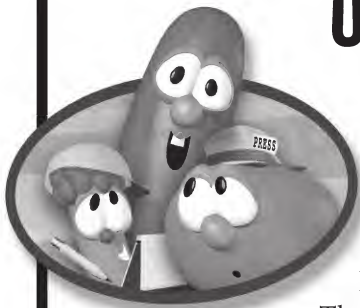


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Undercover Reporters Serenaded by Spiritual Music

THINK—LINK—ACT have set their time machine to take them back to the early history of the Israelite nation.

They discovered a shepherd boy named David. God had big plans for David, but what the reporters were first amazed by was the musical talent of David. **THINK** reveals how

David was always praising God with his little harp he carried with him. **LINK** noticed how much time David had to write songs praising God while being out with the sheep. **ACT** reported how David wrote about half of the songs, called psalms, in the book of Psalms in the Bible.

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Weather report: When God is our source of joy, the "Son" is always shining!

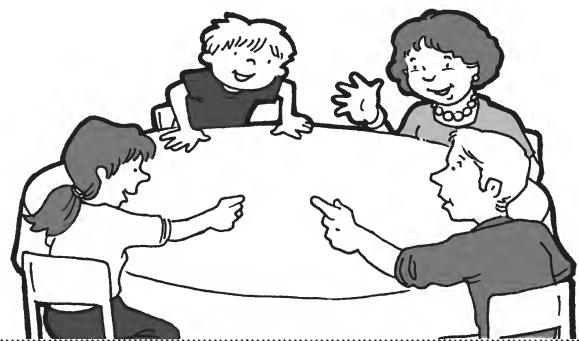
Using a simple design, cut out something to represent the weather for that day, like a cloud, raindrop, snowflake, sunshine. Each day this week, as your family gathers, ask one family member to write words of praise on the cutout and let this person pray for the family. Afterward, tack it up in a visual area (dining room wall, refrigerator) so that every-

one will be reminded to praise God for his wonderful deeds. Each day as the family gathers, the prayer privilege should go to a different family member.

Remember, "*Come near to God and he will come near to you,*" James 4:8.



Personal Praise Alphabet Over dinner, or instead of watching TV, sit down as a family and make up a quick personal praise alphabet. One person begins with "A" by saying "I praise God for (something that begins with an A), liking to do active things!" Then the next person does "B", and so on. Try to think of things specific to how God made each of your family members.



Undercover Reporters Follow Prophet

THINK — LINK — ACT are hot on the trail of a special prophet of God. He is traveling to a place to perform an important ceremony. To find out the where, what, who, and how of this special event, check out your next issue of *VeggieConnections!*

More Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Joy Police Blotter The job of the police is to keep the public safe by catching criminals. This week your assignment is to be part of the "joy police." Your job is to catch your family and friends in random acts of kindness and joy, and then report them at a family gathering time. Try to "catch" everyone in your family at some point in the week. Remember, when God is our source of joy, amazing things happen; it's your job to report them. "Just the facts, please."

Past joy police have reported the following:

Dad: Tuesday evening—Turned on a worship CD in the car and got the whole family singing along.

Saturday morning—took my sister to the mall.

Mom: Monday after school—Had a plate of fresh-baked brownies on the table.

Saturday morning—Shot hoops in the driveway with my brother and me.

Nick (brother): Friday night—Let me hang out with him and his friends (it was way cool!)

Thursday evening—Helped me with a math problem.

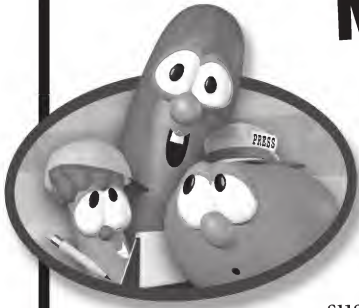
Olivia (sister): Monday morning—Found my shoes for me when I was running late for school.

Wednesday after school—Bought me a soda on the way home from school.

Jamie (friend): Friday lunchtime—Told me I was cool, even after I spilled juice on myself.

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Reporters Visit Bethlehem

THINK reports the well-known prophet Samuel was recently seen passing through Bethlehem, coming to offer a worship sacrifice to the Lord. But some locals were suspicious of his motives, LINK revealed. Invited to the feast were Jesse, the well-liked shepherd, and all of his sons. Samuel spent much time with them. Mysteriously, Jesse sent servants to bring his youngest son, David, tending sheep out in the far fields, leaving the sheep without his expert care.

Interviewed later by ACT about the meeting, David commented, "I realized today that the Lord knows me very well—because he made me—and he has a plan for me."

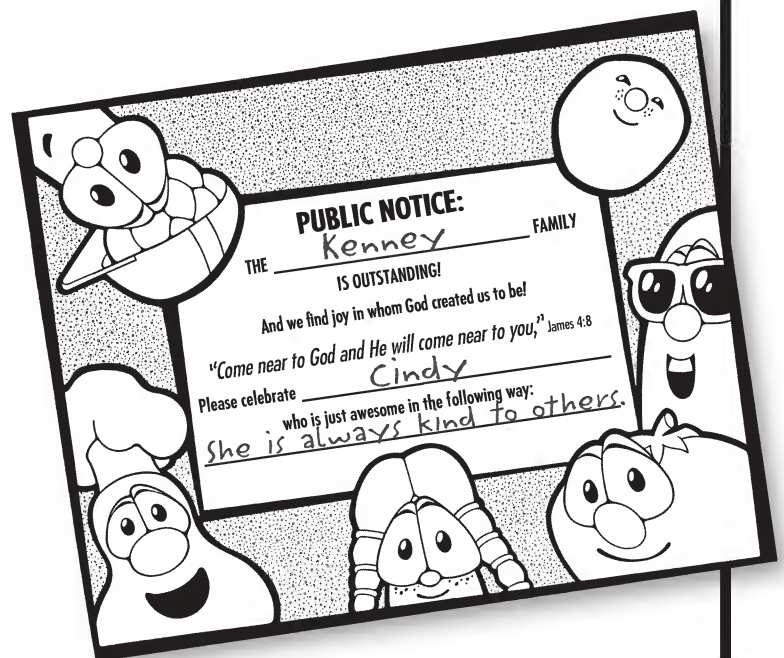
Witnesses claim they saw Samuel anointing David with oil, which could only imply a royal title was being conferred. But when pressed for further details, David would only reply, "I find joy in who God created me to be."

Undercover Reporters Land in the Middle of a Battle

The undercover reporters take their time machine to a time when Israel and the Philistines are at war. The Philistines have a soldier who strikes terror into the hearts of all the Israelite soldiers. Who will step up to fight him? Your next issue of *VeggieConnections* will have the answer!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Put Your Family in the Ads! Other people may see wonderful things in us we don't see for ourselves. Have the family do some advertising and feature each family member during the week. Draw each other's names from a hat, and think about the qualities of that person. Use the Veggie frame (on the next page) to create your advertisement. Link a unique, God-given characteristic to that person. Each day, at a family gathering time, pick one family member and act on your appreciation for him or her by practicing James 4:8 and praying for them.





PUBLIC NOTICE:

THE

FAMILY

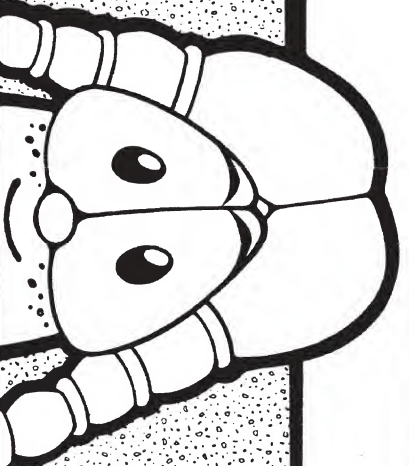
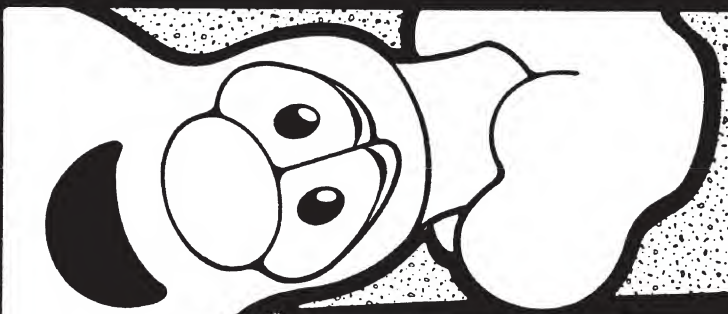
IS OUTSTANDING!

And we find joy in whom God created us to be!

"Come near to God and He will come near to you," James 4:8

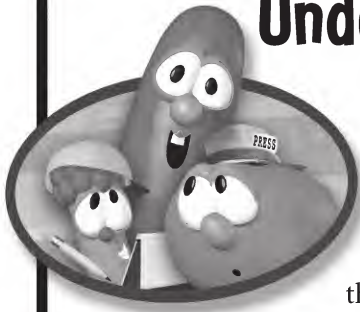
Please celebrate

who is just awesome in the following way:



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Undercover Reporters Encounter Giant

The undercover reporters landed their time machine in the midst of a battle between Israel and their long-time enemies, the Philistines. THINK reports they arrived during a pause in the battle. The Philistines' huge, nine-foot giant of a soldier shouted daily taunts to Israel's soldiers.

LINK followed the shepherd boy David as he brought supplies to his brothers. His brothers

mocked David for his talk about defeating Goliath. But David was determined and went to King Saul. Saul had his doubts but finally agreed to let David face the giant.

ACT added that David had fought off wild animals attacking his sheep, so he wasn't afraid of the giant. But David wasn't relying on his own strength against the giant, but God's. David called out God's name and shot one stone from his slingshot, hitting the giant in the forehead and killing him. ACT summarized that David was confident and joyful even when facing this trial, something we can all learn from.

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Nationwide Column Supported by

Local Parents Develop a "Dear Larry" column at home where kids can ask Mom or Dad the hard questions without having to do it face to face. Make a mailbox (a decorated oatmeal container works well) so that kids can deliver their letters anonymously, and Mom and Dad can answer them when they really have time to pray and think on the matter. Here are some "samples" from real vegetables.

Dear Larry,

My sister has really cool clothes, but every time I want to wear them she freaks out. She lets all her friends wear them, why can't I? What should I do?

Fashion Flop

Dear Fashion Flop,

Growing up is hard to do. Your sister is probably at an age where she wants some privacy and independence, so the best thing you can do is show her some respect. She would probably be pleased if you asked her advice on how to put some of your own clothes together for a new look, but don't try to use hers. It's time to rejoice that you have a sister and be thankful for the times of fun and laughter.

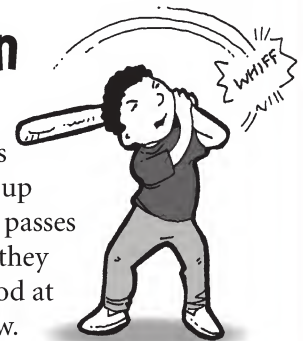
Dear Larry,

Recess is no fun. All my friends play sports but whenever I get up to bat, I strike out, and no one passes me the ball for hoops because they know I'll miss. I want to be good at sports, but just don't know how.

Goofball

Dear Goofball,

First of all, you are not a goofball! God made you special, and he loves you very much! Not everyone is cut out for sports, and even those who are often have to grow into it. Relax and have fun with the kids, ask your mom or dad to play in the yard after dinner, and remember, God is your source of joy, not the homeruns you hit.



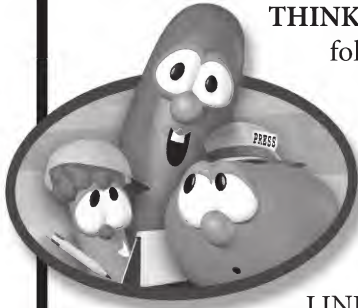
Undercover Reporters Hide Out in Caves

The reporters follow King Saul as he hunts for David. David and his men hole up in a cave, as do Saul and his men. What will happen if the two find each other? How close are they? Find out all these answers in next week's *VeggieConnections*!

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Undercover Reporters Hiding Out in Caves



THINK—**LINK**—**ACT** have been following King Saul and his army as he has been tracking down David. **THINK**, inside the cave where David and his men were hiding, reported that David had discovered where Saul's cave was.

LINK, hiding in Saul's cave, watched as David discovered Saul was in the same cave! After rejecting his men's advice to kill King Saul, David snuck up and cut off a piece of his robe while Saul slept. But David felt bad about what he had done.

ACT stood outside of the cave and saw David call to Saul from outside the cave. When Saul appeared, David showed him the piece of robe he had cut off the king while he slept. King Saul told David he was thankful David did not kill him and made a truce with David right there.

When **ACT** interviewed David, he would only give this explanation: "I know that God himself chose Saul to be the king. He also chose me to follow him. But I will not rush God's timing. When God is ready, he is the one who will remove Saul in some way and set me on the throne. Saul has nothing to fear from me. I find joy in being content—right where I am."

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Classified Ads Wanted: All your unused stuff for kids and families everywhere. God provides all of our needs so we can find joy in being content! Go through the house finding stuff to give away. First make classified ads for your family or church family. Then hold a garage sale or give it to a local charity.



Announcement: Local Talent Auditions, Families Only

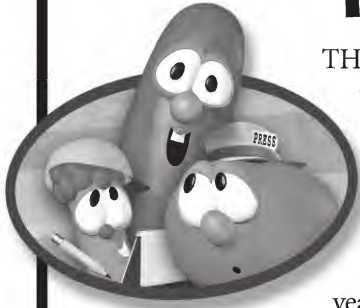
Identify what God has called you, as a family, to be and do. Are you givers? Musicians? Missionaries? Encouragers? Have a family meeting (don't forget the chips!) and pick one thing you can do for the Lord that gels with your family's personality. Great contentment comes from serving the Lord in the place where you fit best!

Undercover Reporters on Long-Awaited Event

The reporters are fighting the crowds as other reporters and media people are swarming on Jerusalem for this special event, twenty years in the making! Check out the next *VeggieConnections* for the details of this spectacular event!

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New King Ascends Throne

THINK reports that great festivities have been celebrated all week long at the crowning of David as the king of Israel. King David has waited a long time for his crown, LINK added. It was nearly twenty years ago that the famous prophet

Samuel anointed David—when he was a mere shepherd boy. God had planned long ago that David would succeed Saul—though Saul tried to thwart those plans. Over the years, David gained experience in battle and court manners, though he would often say that his years spent among the underprivileged people in Israel was his most moving preparation for leadership.

ACT commented that King David had never hesitated to credit God with every good thing, as witnessed by his psalms that are filled with thanks to God. All followers of God would do well to follow David's example.

Undercover Reporters Witness Royal Family Feud

The reporters join King David as he is faced with a relative of the former king. Usually these things don't turn out well for former rulers. But David is a different king. What will he do? Find out in the next issue of *VeggieConnections*!

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Letter to the Creator Get the whole family involved in writing a "round robin" letter to God. Let someone volunteer to start the letter. That person should write two or three sentences to the Lord thanking him for a specific person, gift, or event. The letter is then put into an envelope and laid on someone else's pillow. Each person can read what has been written before and add his or her own thanksgiving to it. This letter can keep circulating as a reminder of God's good gifts to us or when it gets back to the first person it can be read aloud at a family time.

Cooking School A great way to give thanks is to give back some of what we have been given. Get the whole family in the kitchen to make some goodies to give away. Make trail mix, cook candy, or prepare a healthy fruit basket, along with a note that includes James 4:8, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." Then take it to someone that needs a lift.

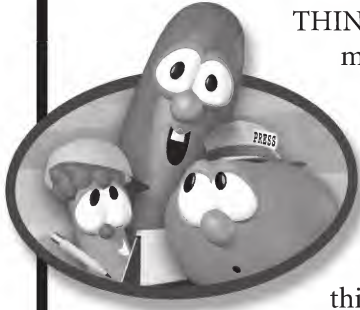


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New Person Appears at King's Table



THINK reports a new guest is making a regular appearance at the king's table, and a very surprising guest at that. This young man is the grandson of the late king, Saul, once King David's enemy. It hardly needs to be mentioned that this is a highly unusual arrangement, as relatives of an enemy king are usually considered enemies as well. But this grandson, the son of Jonathan, is disabled and unable to live independently.

LINK reports, Mephibosheth's plight was brought to David's attention by a former loyal servant of Saul. David remembered a promise he had once made to Saul in order to prove his peaceful intentions—that he would always care for Saul's descendents. King David is living up to his promise and to his faith in God. When asked by ACT for a quote on the new arrangement, David exclaimed, "I find joy in being kind!"

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

World News: Find out about agencies in your area that help the poor. Beyond home, check out *Compassion International*, *World Vision* and other Christian organizations that need help to care for those in need. As a family, pray and commit to help in some way, for example, volunteering in a soup kitchen, collecting food for a ministry food pantry, "adopting" a child in a third-world county, or another way to personally get involved. Discover with your family the joy that comes in giving from a thankful heart.

Cups of Joy A little kindness goes a long way in bringing joy both to the one getting and the one giving. Pick up some inexpensive mugs at a local dollar store along with some instant hot cocoa and peppermint sticks or glasses and instant iced tea and lemon drops (depending on the season). Grab some cellophane and ribbon. Now, as a family make some kindness gifts for friends and family. Put drink mix in a snack-size zipper-closure bag, put it in the mug with a sweet treat, and wrap the whole thing in cellophane secured with ribbon. The next time you have

a friend who is sick, sad, or stressed, drop off a cup of joy with the following note attached. Now that should bring a smile!

*Just thought that I would stop and say
God is with you everyday.
I hope this gift will help you see
That you are loved by God and me!*



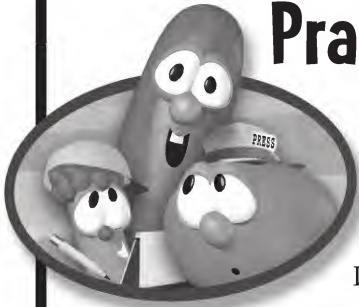
Undercover Reporters Faced with Machine Failure

THINK thought he had fixed the cantankerous time machine, but after the reporters arrived at David's palace, they realized they had to walk, rather than ride, for the next adventure. But THINK said, "It's not all that bad. In fact, walking is a clue about what will happen in our next report!" Check out the next *VeggieConnections* to unravel the mystery!

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Undercover Reporters Praise God



The reporters witnessed David praising God and were so moved they also broke out in loud praises to God!

THINK reported that despite David's increasing age and many responsibilities of leadership

after many years ruling Israel, he still made praising God a priority. David told LINK, "Writing songs for God is one of my favorite things. My joy from walking with him is so great, I can barely find words to express my relationship with him." ACT noted Israel's success was no doubt a blessing from God in response to David's joyful praise of him.

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Floor Cloth Paint a floor cloth! This decoration will remind the family that everywhere they go, they can find joy in walking with God. Buy a piece of heavy canvas and cut it into a rectangle approximately 2' x 3'. Bind the edges with a spray-on fray guard or sew a hem (available in craft stores). Paint the canvas with latex paint and let dry thoroughly. Then have each person in the family step in a pan of colorful fabric or latex paint then step carefully onto the painted floor cloth. When the feet prints are dry, use paint or indelible markers to add names or more decoration (smiley faces, hearts, and so on). Write Psalm 16:11 around the edge of the cloth.



Prayer Walk Prayer changes things. As a family, take a prayer walk around your neighborhood. Pray for people and situations. Pray for joy to enter your world through hearts and lives that are surrendered to God. Remind each other that as you walk with your family, God is there with you, prompting you how to pray.



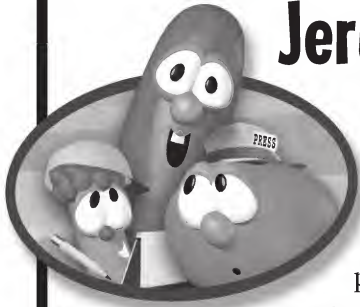
Undercover Reporters Keep Close to King

The reporters spend time following King David, trying to discover how he is able to praise God. Check out the next issue of *VeggieConnections* so you can get the king's advice.

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Joy Overflows in Jerusalem



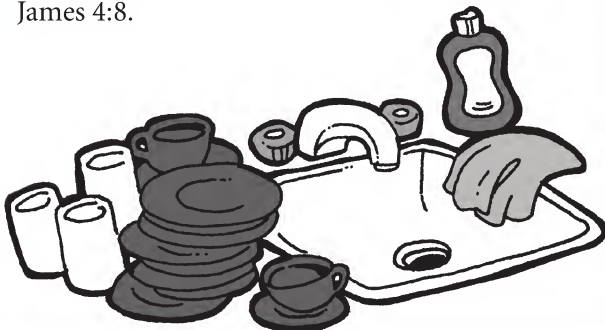
ACT got caught up yesterday in a wave of joyful people who flowed from the temple and down the city streets. LINK reported that these happy people had heard King David's newest song, known as "Psalm 145,"

in a temple worship service. The joy was contagious and lifted the hearts of all who heard it.

King David told ACT, "My joy in the Lord is so great that I want to share it with others. That's one reason I write songs—that others may hear about God and know his joy too."

Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Tidy Time! Sharing our joy in the Lord with others means those in our own house, too! So, each night this week call for a family "tidy time." Set the timer for fifteen minutes and loudly declare, "*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might,*" Ecclesiastes 9:10. Then run (don't walk!) to pick up and put away anything out of place (whether it belongs to you or not). Afterward, take the opportunity to have a family bedtime prayer time. Remember, "*Come near to God and he will come near to you,*" James 4:8.



Community Sports Sharing Games are the perfect opportunity to share your joy in the Lord with others! Invite another family over and start a baseball or soccer game. Better yet, do a wacky, messy obstacle course in the backyard or play a neighborhood hide and seek game! Don't forget pictures! Everyone will want to have a memory of this day.



Undercover Reporters Have Time Machine Ready for Next Adventure

THINK — LINK — ACT have washed, waxed, and changed the oil on the time machine. They are ready for another thrilling visit to a Bible times event. Check out your next *VeggieConnections* to find out where the time machine lands!